

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 is pending in this application. By this amendment, Claim 1 is amended; and no claims are canceled or added herewith. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added by this amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 1 was rejected over Applicants' admitted prior art (AAPA) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,763,971 to Takahata and U.S. Patent No. 6,093,984 to Shiga.

It is respectfully submitted that the applied art does not teach or suggest that the yoke includes a plurality of yoke members made of a magnetic material and arranged in superposed layers with an insulating layer interposed between each adjacent pair of yoke members, and the insulating layers of the yoke members directly contact an entire area of a contact surface of each adjacent yoke member, as recited in Claim 1.

In contrast, Shiga discusses in column 5, lines 48-56 that each unit yoke 36 is made by stacking a plurality of steel sheets 40 axially with respect to the rotor. The axially stacked steel sheets 40 are caulked so that the steel sheets 40 are mechanically connected together. The steel sheet 40 serves as a magnetic sheet and each caulked portion 41 serves as a connected portion. The steel sheets 40 can be positioned and caulked when accommodated into the molding die.

Accordingly, the applied art does not teach or suggest the features of the claimed invention discussed above. Again, Shiga merely discusses that the steel sheets 40 are caulked so as to be mechanically connected together. The caulked portions 41 of the stacked sheets 40 are set on the circumferential central portions of the respective rotor segments 38. There is no teaching or suggestion for the insulating layers of the yoke members to directly contact

an entire area of a contact surface of each adjacent yoke member. Again, Shiga merely discusses that the steel sheets are stacked and caulked and are insulated from one another. There is no teaching or suggestion for having the entire contact area of the yoke members to be in contact with the insulating layers. Further, because the steel sheets are caulked together as shown in Fig. 5 of Shiga, the steel sheets cannot be directly contacted by any insulation layer if so provided.

In accordance with the features of the claimed invention discussed above, since the permanent magnet units include permanent magnet members arranged in superposed layers along with intervening insulating layers and further because the yokes also include yoke members which are arranged in superposed layers along with insulating layers, the eddy currents to be produced in the magnet units and yokes diminish to reduce the resulting rotational loss. The features of the claimed invention discussed above are not taught or suggested by the applied art and therefore, the applied art cannot provide at least the advantages discussed above. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is respectfully requested.

Consequently, for at least the reasons discussed above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

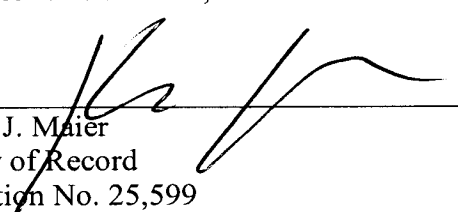
OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/07)

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Gregory J. Maier
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 25,599

Kevin M. McKinley
Registration No. 43,794